

Prime Minister Koizumi, Endorsing Reforms, Wins Big

P rime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) won a landslide victory in the General Election on September 11, gaining a majority in the House of Representatives. The LDP captured 296 seats, surpassing its pre-election strength of 212 by 84 seats. Combined with the 31 seats won by the New Komeito, the ruling coalition now holds 327 seats, more than two-thirds of the 480 seats in the House of Representatives. The LDP's 296 seats are the party's second largest number since it held 300 seats in 1986. The Democratic Party of Japan, the biggest opposition party, suffered a crushing defeat, securing only 113 seats, a whopping 64-seat loss from its pre-election strength of 177.

On August 8, Mr. Koizumi decided to dissolve the House of Representatives based on his belief that the public should be directly consulted on whether they truly feel that the privatization of the postal service is necessary. The bill related to this issue, and at the heart of the reforms implemented by the Koizumi Cabinet, was defeated by the House of Councilors.

Why is the privatization of the postal service the "heart" of the reforms? There are a few reasons.

● The money that our people have put into their postal savings, postal life insurance and pension fund has been

used as operating funds for special public corporations. If the privatization of the postal service is realized, then its assets (about 3 trillion dollars) could be used more effectively by the private sector.

● There are approximately 270,000 postal civil servants. If the privatization of the postal service occurs, the number of national civil servants could be decreased by about 30%.

● Japan Post does not pay any tax to the government. If the postal service were privatized, the companies created would be subject to corporate and property tax. In this way, privatization would contribute to Japan's financial rehabilitation.



© Photo Kyodo
Prime Minister Koizumi

In his latest e-mail public comments, Prime Minister Koizumi said: "Postal privatization comprises administrative structural reform, fiscal structural reform, economic structural reform, financial reform, and above all, political structural reform. That is precisely why postal privatization is at the heart of the reforms".

Helping the victims of Katrina

The Government of Japan has decided to lend a hand to the United States in its time of need.

Following an initial cash donation of \$200,000 to the Red Cross on September 2, Japan will contribute emergency assistance in the amount of \$800,000 for a total of \$1 million of aid to the

victims of Hurricane Katrina. Japan is also prepared to dispatch its Disaster Relief Teams if requested.

The Japan's private sector is also helping with donations totaling more than \$22 million from companies such as Toyota and Honda to name just a few.

Amb. Ando's Visit to Puerto Rico

Ambassador Ando, Consul General of Japan in N.Y., made an official visit to Puerto Rico from Aug. 30 to Sep. 2.

During his stay, he met with many distinguished leaders, most notably Governor Anibal Acevedo Vila. During his meeting with the Governor, the Ambassador discussed strengthening the relationship between Japan and Puerto Rico. He emphasized that the relationship should not be limited to business, but should also include cultural and academic relations. Though the streets of Puerto Rico are filled with Japanese cars and most Puerto Rican households have at least one Japanese appliance, the people of Puerto Rico have limited exposure to Japanese culture. The development of cultural relations will be a gradual process, and the Ambassador and the Governor have

agreed to take the necessary steps.

One highlight of the Ambassador's trip was his speech at the University of Puerto Rico. Nearly one hundred faculty members and students filled the law school auditorium to hear his speech: "Japan and Puerto Rico: Building a New Bridge." Ambassador Ando spoke about the long-standing history of Japan and the U.S., and called on his audience to envision a new relationship between Japan and Puerto Rico. He also described Puerto Rico's cultural presence in Japan. The members of the audience were from a wide variety of disciplines and had a broad range of questions in response to the talk. The Ambassador promised to do his best for future academic exchanges between Japan and Puerto Rico.

The Ambassador also discussed ideas to increase Japanese travel to Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico is a unique region



Amb. Ando (l.) and the Hon. M. Morales.

since unlike the six Mid-Atlantic States under the jurisdiction of the Japanese Consulate in N.Y., it lies thousands of miles away and far off-shore. The island is a popular vacation destination for travelers throughout the world.

Since 1997, Mr. Manuel Morales, Jr. has represented Japan as the Japanese Honorary Consul General in Puerto Rico. The Hon. Morales has a great deal of experience advising Japanese companies in Puerto Rico. His professional expertise, along with his personal popularity has assisted his representation of Japanese interests. He has been an essential part of Japan's presence in Puerto Rico and we look forward to continuing to work with him in the future.

That Obscure Charm of J-Cinema

By Kyoko Hirano, former director, the Japan Society film program

This fall, NYC is blessed by the unprecedented scope and richness of Japanese Cinema by the special tributes at the MoMA, the Film Society of Lincoln Center, Film Forum and the Japan Society.

Both classic and contemporary films will be presented in diverse programs. Directors familiar to Americans, e.g. Kenji Mizoguchi, Yasujiro Ozu, and Akira Kurosawa are featured alongside with those popular among movie fans such as Seijun Suzuki, Nagisa Oshima, Yoji Yamada and Takeshi Kitano. These series also embrace more recent names like Takashi Ishii and Junji Sakamoto for new discoveries.

However, the real treat will be the rare films from the 1920s and classics from the 1930s and 1940s. From the silent

films, we will learn how the acting, camera movements and lighting were shaped in their pictorial devices, abreast of the world cinema

culture but nonetheless rendered in the exquisite sensibility inspired from the Japanese traditional arts and literature.

Many films will give an interesting glimpse of *shomingeki*, uniquely Japanese cinematic genre. They are about everyday life of the ordinary people - shop keepers, craftsmen, office workers, students and waitresses. Unlike Hollywood films boastful of flaming love affairs between unbelievably handsome men and women, superhero's adventures, car races, or even the destruction



Ms. Kyoko Hirano

of this planet, these films are subdued to the delicate portrayal of relationships between simple and humble human beings in their apparently non-eventful daily life. This is so subtly yet deftly depicted by masters of this genre, Mikio Naruse, Heinosuke Gosho, Yasujiro Shimazu and Hiroshi Shimizu.

The sunlight glimmering on the ripples of the river, the crickets murmuring in the early autumn grasses, and drops of the sudden rain fallen from the trees - these are images associated with modest luster and pleasure in everyday life. Disappointments and sadness are also part of life and therefore accepted.

Noted critic Susan Sontag once argued that Japanese cinema teaches us how to live with unsolved problems and dilemma in life. We will appreciate different modes of representation of human life and learn new forms of communication.

Refer to P.5 for Japanese cinema events in NYC.

Lecture • Film

Through November 17

The "Momijigari" : The Japanese Autumn Garden

**The New York Botanical Garden
200th St and Kazimiroff Boulevard,
Bronx, NY**

Step away from the everyday life into the stillness of *Momijigari* and experience the beauty, tranquility, and diversity of an autumnal Japanese garden. Prized Japanese maples in blazing colors grace the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory courtyard, along with artfully crafted bonsai and stunning chrysanthemums. A powerfully poetic exhibition, *Momijigari: The Japanese Autumn Garden* is as richly inspiring as it is visually exquisite.

Info: 718-817-8700 or www.nybg.org

October 17

Butoh Workshop : body as the Receptacle of Time with Yumiko Yoshioka

**The Japan Society
333 E. 47th St., NYC**

This dance and performance workshop features Yumiko Yoshioka, also known as Mizelle Hanaoka, who was a member of Ariadone, the first women's butoh company founded by Ko Murobushi and Carlotta Ikeda in 1978. This workshop also focuses on other organic movement techniques to awaken and explore memories that reside within the body. Co-presented with The Cave. 6pm to 8:30 pm. Maximum is 20 people.

Info: 212-832-1155 or www.japansociety.org

October 17, November 21, December 5
History of Jazz in New York: lecture

The Nippon Club 145 W. 57th St., NYC

Mr. Kuni Mikami, the jazz pianist, who has been living in New York for over 30 years, will talk about the history of jazz and how beginners to old fans can enjoy it in New York City. In November, the session includes Sunday brunch live at Bluenote in downtown Manhattan. 1pm to 2:30pm, 6:30pm to 8pm. His live will be held on November 20, 2pm.

Info: 212-581-2223 or www.nipponclub.org

October 27

Meet the Author of Kamishibai Man: An Evening with Allen Say The Japan Society 333 E. 47th St., NYC

Author and illustrator Allen Say, known for creating *Grandfather's Journey*, (winner of the 1994 Caldecott Medal), discusses his most recently published children's book, *Kamishibai Man*—a heart-warming story about the kamishibai man who used to ride his bicycle into town where he would tell stories to the children and sell them candy. Book signing and reception will follow. 6:30pm to 8pm.

Info: 212-832-1155 or www.japansociety.org

October 29

Family Program : Kamishibai: Storytelling for Children The Japan Society 333 E. 47th St., NYC

Come and experience Japanese folk tales through *Kamishibai* (kah-mee-she-bye), one of Japan's most traditional, dramatic storytelling techniques for children, which uses large picture boards on a small stage. Participants will be introduced to the very old and very fascinating world of Japanese folktales. This performance is led by Margaret Eisenstadt. Kamishibai is for children. 2pm to 4pm.

Info: 212-832-1155, 212-752-3015 or

www.japansociety.org

Exhibition

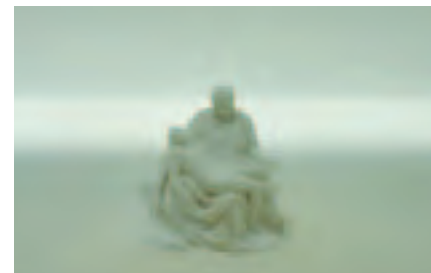
Through November 5

Bonds

**Ise Cultural Foundation Gallery
555 Broadway, NYC**

The exhibition, "Bonds," is presented by the curatorial team of Ana Vázquez, and David Rodríguez Caballero, from Spain and explores one main feature of the contemporary art arena: the appropriation of symbols from distant cultures. The symbols presented in this show are renowned icons in their respective Western and Eastern cultures including Catholic iconography, the Age of Enlightenment and the Japanese traditions. Featured artists are Noriko Ambe, Ten+Goku (Sacré Nobi and Hajime Watanabe), Isabel Ulzurrun and David Rodríguez Caballero. Artist Talk will be held on October 15, 6pm to 8pm.

Info: 212-925-1649 or www.isefoundation.org



Ten+Goku

Through December 30

Court Ladies and Courtesans: Private Worlds in Old Japan The Newark Museum

49 Washington St., Newark, NJ

This exhibition celebrates the private worlds of married women and courtesans in 18th and 19th century Japan. Special costumes and textiles for dow-



Scenes from the Tale of Genji

ries and weddings are included, as well as cosmetic items, poetry, paintings and ceramics by women artists, imperial court dolls, *Ukiyoe* prints and *Netsukes* depicting courtesans and famous women heroes. A 19th c. Japanese embroidered wedding Kimono and ceremonial gifts and utensils are also featured in *Court Ladies and Courtesans: Private Worlds in Old Japan*.
Info: 973-596-6550 or www.newarkmuseum.org

Through February 5, 2006
Creating a Paper Paradise: Illustrations for Dear World by Takayo Noda

**Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum
 Rutgers State University of New Jersey
 71 Hamilton St., New Brunswick, NJ**
 Takayo Noda's simple, direct poems call on memories of her childhood and voice her feelings about aspects of the world we live in. Her illustrations express these joyful and tender feelings in brilliantly colored, lyrical works on paper. The exhibition will include preparatory materials used by the artist to develop complex compositions in shallow relief created from painted cut paper and handmade paper. Hands-on activities will be available for visitors to the gallery.
Info: 732-932-7237 or www.zimmerlimuseum.rutgers.edu

Through February 19, 2006
**Hiroshi Sugimoto:
 History of History
 The Japan Society
 333 E. 47th St., NYC**

One of the most internationally-acclaimed Japanese artists living today, Hiroshi Sugimoto is best known for his photographic series of empty movie theaters and drive-ins, seascapes, dioramas and wax museums. This exhibition juxtaposes Sugimoto's exquisitely minimalist works, selected from the photographer's past and most recent series. Co-organized by the Japan Society in New York and the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery in Washington, D.C.
Info: 212-832-1155 or www.japansociety.org



Henry VIII and His Six Queens 1999
 gelatin silver prints

October 12 to December 22
**American Perspective of Japan
 The Nippon Club 100th Year
 Anniversary Exhibition
 The Nippon Club
 145 W. 57th St., NYC**

Japan and the United States have had an important relationship over the 150 years since the U.S.-Japan Treaty on Peace and Amity was signed in 1854. How have the relationships changed over the years? Japan and America both made huge efforts to develop, understand each other, and change for the better. This inspiring exhibition presents how Japan was viewed from American people such as Captain Mercator Cooper, Townsend Harris, W. Edwards Deming, Hugh Borton, and Donald Beckman Brown through generations.
Info: 212-581-2223 or www.nipponclub.org



W. Edwards Deming
 The W. Edwards Deming Institute

October 21 to March 5, 2006
**The Imagery of Chess Revisited
 The Noguchi Museum
 9-01 33rd Road (at Vernon Boulevard),
 Long Island City, NYC**

The Imagery of Chess Revisited will include twelve of the thirteen chess sets from the original 1944-45 exhibition, held in New York City. Many of the paintings, sculptures, as well as several earlier artist-designed chess sets and chess-related sculptures will be on display. Among the works on view will be chess sets designed by Breton with Nicolas Calas, Calder, Duchamp (twelve works), Alberto Giacometti, Isamu Noguchi, Man Ray, and others.
Info: 718-721-2308 or www.noguchi.org

Performance

Through October 23

D.K. Hollywood Play We Are The Sperm Cells

**At Theatre for the New City
155 1st Ave., (bet. 9th & 10th St), NYC**
Daisuke Koshikawa, who had organized the legendary Japanese comedy group, created the new theatre company, D.K. Hollywood in 1994. His original play, We Are The Sperm Cells was performed in March and it was quite a success. The unique lighting, dance brings you the dynamic theatre experience.

Info: 347-400-1480, 212-254-1109 or
www.dkhollywood.com

October 16

Renku and Dance: An Afternoon of Improvisation with Linked Verses and Dance

**Salon Series No. 23
Sachiyo Ito & Company
At Tenri Cultural Institute
43A W. 13th St., NYC**

Join this ongoing series of informative lecture-demonstrations and performances on the performing arts of Japan. Renku, a style of linked poem made famous by Basho, will be created by special Guests include members of the Haiku Society of America, with William Higginson, Penny Harter, John Stevenson, and others. 3pm to 4pm. Tickets: \$10 (Student/Senior \$7)

Info: 212-627-0265 or www.dancejapan.com

October 22

String Quartet in residence Tokyo String Quartet 250th Mozart Anniversary At 92nd Street Y 1395 Lexington Ave., NYC

Tisch Center for the Arts and the 92nd Street Y celebrate the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth with the Tokyo String Quartet and distinguished European and American Guest musicians. This series of concerts features Mozart's most sublime works for small ensemble.

Exploring the Roots of Asian Cinema

This fall, Japanese movies are the hottest topic in New York City. At MoMA, the event called Early Autumn: Masterworks of Japanese Cinema is being held. This is the first time in its history, the National Film Center of the National Museum of Modern art, opened its archival holdings to another FIAF institution. Filmforum in Manhattan also will have the director Mikio Naruse festival since this year is his 100th year anniversary of his birth. This extensive event introduces his 31 masterpieces. This year is also the 60th year after the World War II. Commemorating this anniversary, at Japan Society, the event called After War is being held, which features the Japanese films illuminating Japan's experience of war and its aftermath. Another big event is at Lincoln Center, The Beauty of the Everyday: Japan's

Shochiku Company at 110th anniversary. Founded in 1895, and by the early 30s, Shochiku established itself as the home of the *shomin-geki*, tales of everyday life, most often set among the working or middle classes. After the war, Shochiku produced some key works which became known as the Japanese New Wave, revolutionizing the visual style and subject matter of Japanese and, eventually, Asian cinema.



Hidden Blade, from Shochiku

Through January, 2006

Early Autumn Masterworks of Japanese Cinema at MoMA 11 W. 53rd St., NYC

Info: 212-708-9400 or www.moma.org
The Life and Opinions of Masseur Ichi (Oct 21, 6pm)
A Certain Killer (Oct 29, 6:30pm)
The Moderns (Oct 27, 5:30pm)
Monday Girl (Oct 16, 1:30pm & Oct 27, 8pm)
Bad Boy (Oct 16, 3:30pm & Oct 29, 8:30pm) etc.

Through October 20

The Beauty of the Everyday: Japan's Shochiku Company at 110th Anniversary Walter Reade Theatre at Lincoln Center 165 W. 65th St.

Info: 212-721-6500 or www.filmlinc.com
The Castle of Sand (Oct 16, 1pm & Oct. 19, 3:20pm)
Harakiri (Oct 15, 1:30pm, 6:30pm & Oct 18, 8:40pm)
Vengeance is Mine (Oct 14, 1pm & Oct 16, 6:30pm)
My sons (Oct 17, 2pm & 6:30pm)
Face (Oct 18, 4pm & Oct 19, 1pm)
Café Lumière (Oct 19, 9pm & Oct 20, 1pm, 5pm) etc.

Through October 23

After War... at Japan Society 333 E. 47th St., NYC

Info: 212-832-1155 or www.japansociety.org

Japanese Devils (Oct 16, 2pm)
A Man's Face is His Resume (Oct 23, 2pm)
**Hiroshi Sugimoto Film series are
also available**
Tokyo Kid (Nov 11, 7:30pm)
Tokyo Drifter (Nov 13, 2pm & Nov 19, 3:45pm)
The Face of Another (Nov 13, 3:45pm & Nov 20, 2pm)
Blind Beast (Nov 19, 2pm & Nov 20, 4:20pm)
The Water Magician (Dec 2, 7:30pm)
Ten Dark Women (Dec 4, 3:30pm & Dec 11, 2pm)
The World of Geisha (Dec 4, 2pm & Dec 11, 4pm)

October 21 to November 17

Naruse Festival at Film Forum 209 W. Houston St., NYC

Info: 212-727-8100 or filmforum.org
When a woman ascends the stairs (Oct 21-24)
Wife (Oct 25)
Older Brother, Younger Sister (Oct 25, 6:30pm)
Approach of Autumn (Oct 26)
Sudden Rain (Oct 26)
Late Chrysanthemums (Nov 4-5)
Ginza Cosmetics (Nov 6, 1pm)
Not Blood Relations (Nov 7, 7:30pm)
Yearning (Nov 11-12)
Lightning (Nov 13, 3:30pm)
Scattered Clouds (Nov 17) etc.

bles, including pieces showcasing clarinet, piano, and viola, instruments the composer held in particular high esteem. Guest artists: Phillip Ying and Carol Wincenc. 8pm
Info: 212-415-5500 or www.92Y.org

October 30 & December 1
Inoue Chamber Ensemble concert
At The Donnell Library Center
20 W. 53rd St., NYC
Info: 212-621-0619 or www.nypl.org
(Oct. 30, 2:30pm)
At Symphony Space
2537 Broadway, NYC
Info: 212-864-6459 or www.symphonyspace.org
(Dec. 1, 8pm)

Directed by Kazuko Inoue (piano), these concerts introduce an Eastern trend in contemporary music world or the Westernization of Japanese traditional beloved songs, and also inspiring unique performance of music through the techniques found in Noh or Kyogen.

November 4 and 5
Akemi Takeya in Body Poems – Reflections
The Japan Society
333 E. 47th St., NYC

Indulge in the lush imagery, quirky sketches and fierce physicality of Akemi Takeya, Japanese dancer/poet/performance artist extraordinaire. In *Bodypoems - Reflections*, she combines five short vignettes into an evening of solo work, with live music performed by electronic musician and guitarist Marc Weiser. Inspired by the



Akemi Takeya in *Body Poems – Reflections*
© Julia Zdarsky

work of the French poet Jean Cocteau, Takeya's nomadic soul-search creates a unique universe on stage, skillfully blending her experiences and influences from Japan, Austria and France. Starts at 7:30 pm
Info: 212-832-1155 or www.japansociety.org

November 8
Duality
Yass Hakoshima Movement Theatre and the Da Capo Chamber Player
Symphony Space
2537 Broadway, NYC

The Yass Hakoshima Movement Theatre, starring internationally acclaimed theatrical mime artist, Yass Hakoshima, joins forces with the renowned Da Capo Chamber Players in a performance, *Duality*. Featured musicians are André Emeliaroff, cello, Patricia Spencer, flute, Meighan Stoops, clarinet, David Bowlin, violin, Blair MacMillen, piano and music by Geroge Cumb and Joan Tower.

Info: 212-864-5400 or www.yasshakoshima.com



Nasu no Yoichi

November 17
Harmonia Opera Company 24th Anniversary Celebration
At Merkin Concert Hall
Abraham Goodman House
129 W. 67th St., NYC

Harmonia Opera Company, the only Japanese Opera Company in the U.S., celebrates its 24th Anniversary and presents the American Premiere of the opera, *Nasu No Yoichi*. This is based on the true story of the Japanese Robin Hood, *Nasu no Yoichi*, the hero archer, around the year 1180. Through the historic Genji and Heike clan conflicts,

Yoichi eventually decided to become a priest and goes on a long journey to pray for the deceased spirits of the soldiers. Composed by Madame Kazuko Hara. Story written by Yukio Narushima. 8pm
Info: 212-870-1500, 212-501-3303 or www.ekcc.org

December 3 & 4
Annual Solo Recital at Philadelphia Meditation Center
At Philadelphia Meditation Center
8 Darby Rd, Philadelphia, PA
(December 3, 5pm tentative)
28th Annual Recital – Ki Sui An Shakuhachi Dojo
At Queens College
Kisseena Blvd., Flushing, NY
(December 4, 1pm)

Ki Sui An is the largest and most active form of Shakuhachi in the world outside of Japan. In their annual recital, the non-licensed students play the traditional chamber ensemble music with the Koto and the Shamisen (also called the Sengen in this type of music). Guest Artists include Henry Horaku Burnett (Sangen) and Mutsumi Takamizu (Koto).

Info: 212-929-1037 or nyogetsu@nyogetsu.com

December 8 & 9
Shamisen Festival! Miyako Itchu: Traditional Shamisen Ensemble
The Japan Society
333 E. 47th St., NYC

Used in the kabuki theater and bunraku puppet theater, the three-stringed shamisen is one of the most important and versatile instruments in Japanese traditional music. This colorful and exquisite program of both Itchu-bushi and Tokiwazu-bushi features a lavish ensemble of three shamisen players, four singers and a four-person percussion section. Performed with kabuki dance. 7:30 pm

Info: 212-832-1155 or www.japansociety.org



Traditional Shamisen Ensemble © M1 Club

New Director for the Japan Information Center in NY

Mr. Jiro Okuyama, former Director of the General Affairs Division of the Consulate General of Japan in New York, has recently assumed the position of Director of the Japan Information Center, succeeding Mr. Yukihiro Nikaido.



Mr. Jiro Okuyama

Mr. Okuyama, who assumed his new post on August 11, 2005, is a great match for his new assignment. Armed with the attitude to learn more about and improve Japan-U.S. relations combined with his ability to be "outspoken in a sensitive way," Mr. Okuyama plans to promote teamwork, communication, and consultation not only in the Information Center, but in the Consulate as a whole. He believes those qualities will make a difference in how well the Consulate can assist

the public.

Entering the Ministry in 1983, Mr. Okuyama spent four years in the UK, two as a trainee diplomat and two in London as an Embassy official. While he served in many distinguished posts, the most noteworthy one is his time as the Director for the International Press. Mr. Okuyama

accompanied Prime Minister Koizumi on all of his foreign trips from 2002 to 2004.

Mr. Okuyama is married and has two daughters, 10 and 7 years of age. His family lives here in New York and is enjoying their time here thus far. When he is not working hard in the office, Mr. Okuyama enjoys spending time with his family, playing golf, swimming, and skiing. When not doing one of these, he enjoys seeing musicals, operas and classical music performances.

The 2006 JET PROGRAM

The Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) program promotes mutual understanding between Japan and other nations by enhancing foreign language education in Japan and promoting international exchange at the local level. College and university graduates are offered an opportunity to work in local government organizations as well as in public schools in Japan. Since its inception in 1987, over 20,000 Americans have partici-

pated in the program.

The application for the 2006 JET program is now available at www.embjapan.org. Representatives from the Consulate General of Japan in New York will be visiting colleges and universities to meet with potential applicants. If you are interested in the program, please join us for these information sessions. The schedule is available at our website www.cgj.org.

For further information, you may call 212-418-4461 or send an e-mail to jet@ny.cgj.org.

VISIT JAPAN

Yokohama 横浜



Japan's First Modern City

Situated on a peninsula facing the western coast of Tokyo Bay, Yokohama lies a mere 30 kilometers (18.6 miles) from Tokyo, the capital of Japan. The port of Yokohama was opened in 1859 and ever since has been a window to the world. Japan's first Western style hotel and restaurant was opened in Yokohama, and was also the site of Japan's first coffee shop and bak-



Spy Bank 1999/2005 by Luc Delec

ery as well as its first modern waterworks and railroads. Built on a rich heritage of enterprising endeavor, Yokohama has become a truly international city and Japan's largest international trading port. With such a large number of tourist spots in Yokohama, it's hard to make an efficient itinerary to go around and see things not only for visitors but also even for natives. Throughout the year, many events are held one after another and you will never be disappointed regardless of when you visit this city.

The main event this fall is the Yokohama Triennale 2005* from September 28 to December 18. The theme is Art Circus-jumping from the Ordinary. This event will feature the work of around

80 participating international and Japanese artists exhibiting in the main venue - two enormous warehouses located on Yamashita Pier. The venue will be defined as a place where - even after the opening of the exhibition - various events are always happening, often simultaneously, so that visitors see "the exhibition" as an aggregate of all of these elements.

In addition, in October, Yokohama Octoberfest, Yokohama Jazz Promenade, World Festival Yokohama, Bashi-michi Festival, and a few festivals in Chinatown will be held. Yokohama is a culturally multidimensional, visually rich, international city in Japan. Visit Yokohama.

*www.yokohama2005.jp/en/

New Directions in Japanese Home Design

By Azby Brown,
director, the Future Design Institute in Tokyo

Contemporary Japanese live in homes with half the space of their American counterparts, or less, and pay double the price. Home ownership has been an unattainable dream for most, largely due to the high cost of land. People have made do with smaller homes, while a vast market for compact appliances, storage units, even bicycles and automobiles, has developed. But most Japanese have felt a certain embarrassment about living conditions which seem substandard compared to those in the West, and have tried to keep their homes out of sight.



Book by Mr. Azby Brown

Years of experience with small home design coupled with Japan's unparalleled traditional sensibility, have recently helped give birth to a new genera-

tion of beautiful and comfortable small Japanese homes. For many homeowners, a well-designed compact home is the new status symbol. Ample light, inspired storage, soft spatial divisions are among a number of design techniques in the current Japanese residential design toolkit that are in common use and have a lot to offer people in other countries who feel constrained by their spatial realities.

There are so many different lifestyles in Japan, and so much history. Characteristics we associate with traditional homes include tatami mats, shoji screens, wide verandas overlooking well-maintained gardens, and an overall sense of expansiveness, unified by finely crafted natural materials. There are many large multistory farmhouses in the country, and generously sized merchant houses in the older cities which combine shops, living quarters, storehouses and gardens in one beautifully

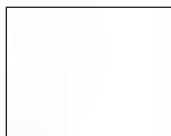
CULTURE CONNECTION

harmonic complex. Many designers utilize these traditions in their contemporary work. But increasingly, the modern aesthetic has come to the fore in new houses. Metal, glass, white surfaces, skylights and atriums all seem to be the most sought after in domestic atmosphere that is bright, fresh, and above all-new. These are major developments culturally and foremost in many of the best newer small houses.

The current generation of Japanese architects is globally aware and influential overseas. Coupled with the growing appreciation of Japanese ideas and culture in countries like the U.S., we need not be surprised if our future homes borrow increasingly from the best Japan has to offer.

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